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**Date:** January 21, 2011

**To:** Department of Justice; Registration Unit

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**From:** Qorvis Communications, LLC (202) 496-1000

**Page Count:** 2 including cover page

**Comments:** The material I am submitting is from Qorvis Communications, LLC

Registration #5483

The material is being distributed on behalf of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea in Washington, DC

MSD/CES/REGISTRATION UNIT  
2011 JAN 25 AM 9:05

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## TEXAS LAWMAKER RODNEY ELLIS VISITS EQUATORIAL GUINEA TO STRENGTHEN ECONOMIC RELATIONS

MALABO (January 18, 2011) – During his first visit to Equatorial Guinea (República de Guinea Ecuatorial), the State Senator for Texas, Rodney Ellis (D-Houston), voiced his desire for increased cooperation between Texas and Equatorial Guinea regarding sectors of common interest. State Senator Ellis met with the President of the People's House of Representatives, Ángel Serafin Seriche Dougan Malabo, who acknowledged Texas' role in the country's oil sector development.

Although the State of Texas and Equatorial Guinea already have strong relations in the economic and commercial sectors, Senator Ellis expressed his interest to extend their relations to the agriculture, construction and education sectors. The Senator's trip to Equatorial Guinea changed the perception he had of the country, saying during his visit "what I have seen here these days improves by far the view that exists of Equatorial Guinea abroad."

The Houston lawmaker went on to recognize the improvements Equatorial Guinea's government has made in the country and how pleased he was to be able to see it first hand. "I have found a very beautiful and very rich country with such a fantastic landscape that it can be said it is quite a paradise. Because of this, I have to praise the great works carried out by the Government throughout the country. I have travelled many times to Western Africa, but I had never reached Equatorial Guinea."

Equatorial Guinea, under the leadership of President Obiang, is working to rapidly become more effective and transparent government. In its efforts to boost foreign investment and international relations, the government has met with the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, world leaders in Europe and Africa, China and South Korea. As part of the government's Horizon 2020 development plan, the country is working to boost health, education at all levels, workforce training and infrastructure development to reach its goal of becoming a sustainable emergent economy by the year 2020.

### *About Equatorial Guinea*

The Republic of Equatorial Guinea (República de Guinea Ecuatorial) is the only Spanish-speaking country in Africa, and one of the smallest nations on the continent. In the late-1990s, American companies helped discover the country's oil and natural gas resources, which only within the last five years began contributing to the global energy supply. Equatorial Guinea is now working to serve as a pillar of stability and security in its region of West Central Africa. The country will host the 2011 Summit of the African Union. For more information, visit <http://www.guineaequatorialpress.com>.

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